Aid package from Japan

1347. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have secured an aid-package from Japan amounting to Rs. 300 crores for restoration and upkeep of monuments and heritage sites;

(b) if so, which are the locations covered by this aid-package;

(c) whether Government propose to place for consideration the project of restoration of the heritage sites in Karnataka like Hampi and Helebid to international funding agencies;

(d) whether the privatisation of projects for restoration and upkeep of national monuments and heritage sites like Taj Mahal have proven successful; and

(e) if so, Government's plans to replicate such arrangements elsewhere?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Japan Bank for International Cooperation has agreed in principle to provide the loan assistance (Approximately Japanes Yen 7331 Million = approximately Rs. 299.2 crores) for Ajanta Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project Phase-II. The locations covered are: Ajanta, Ellora, Pithalkhora, Aurangabad, Daulatabad, Patnadevi, Lonar, Nasik, Pune, Elephanta caves, Bhaja and Bedsa, Shivneri, Malshej and Kolvan in Maharashtra.

(c) No such project has been received.

(d) As part of public private participation through the National Culture Fund, the Indian Hotel Company Limited (Tata Group) have entered into an agreement with the Archaeological Survey of India and the department of culture to provide funds to the tune of Rs. 1.87 crores for tourist amenities and for conservation of the monument besides development of the environment around the monument. As part of the agreement the collaborator will Commission a professional agency to prepare a

feasibility report on the conservation, beautification, restoration and upgradation of the monument and the surrounding areas. The project shall be carried out by Archaeological Survey of India with the approval and under the guidance of Project Implementation Committee (PIC) under the Chairmanship of the Director General, Archaeological Survey of India.

(e) Private-public participation is encouraged to develop environs around the monuments and to provide basic tourist amenities wherever necessary.

Security of foreign tourists

1348. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the steep fall in the arrival of international tourists into the country;

(b) if so, the estimated loss of foreign exchange; and

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to assure foreign tourists of security and other related aspects?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) There has been a decline of 6.9% in foreign tourist arrivals during the year 2002 as compared to the year 2001. The foreign exchange earning has, however, increased from Rs. 14344 crores in the year 2001 to Rs. 14420 crores in the year 2002.

(c) The foreign tourists have been reassured through leading tour operators and media campaigns that India is a safe destination in order to allay the fears of tourists about the region.

Tourist places in A.P.

1349. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the tourists visited Andhra Pradesh for treatments through the use of herbs in Krishna district and paralysis treatment as practised in Chirala and other famed Allopathic and Indian Medicine treatments;